

REMARKS

This application pertains to a novel adhesive tape for flying reel splice, i.e., for flying reel change and to a splicing method using the tape.

Claims 3-17 are pending; claims 1 and 2 being canceled by this amendment. Claim 13 is now presented in independent form, and all remaining claims are amended to depend from said claim. The amendment of claim 13 to independent form does not present any new matter or new issues, since said claim has been in the application since the original filing date. Entry of the amendment should therefore not be refused.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Weinberg (U.S. 5,901,919), taken individually or in view of the Handbook of Adhesives.

Applicants' claims are now limited to the embodiment of claim 13, in which embodiment the double-sided adhesive tape (DO) is arranged at a distance (V) of 0.5 - 15 mm from one long edge (LK) of the adhesive tape.

Weinberg, by contrast, teaches that the double sided adhesive tape should be disposed such that it ends laterally with one side of the paper backing (2) (see col. 2, lines 3-6, Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 43-45). There is absolutely nothing anywhere to be found in either the Weinberg reference or the Handbook of Adhesives that would suggest or even permit the double sided adhesive tape to be displaced away from the

edge of Weinberg's backing (2).

Accordingly, Applicants' claims can not be seen as obvious over Weinberg, either individually or in view of the Handbook of Adhesives and the rejection of claims 1-17 (now 3-17) as obvious over Weinberg (U.S. 5,901,919), taken individually or in view of the Handbook of Adhesives should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-17 (now 3-17) stand provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-12 of copending application serial Nos. 09/518,463 or 09/490,709 in view of the Handbook of Adhesives. It is respectfully requested that further action on this provisional rejection be deferred until it can be determined which of said applications shall be issued first, at which time Applicants will consider an appropriate Terminal Disclaimer.

Claims 1-17 (now 3-17) stand provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over copending application serial Nos. 09/518,463 or 09/490,709 in view of the Handbook of Adhesives. The present application is entitled to a priority date of December 2, 999 which antedates the filing dates of the applied references. It is respectfully requested that further action on this rejection be deferred until it can be determined which application shall issue first, at which time Applicants will consider perfecting their claim to priority, if necessary, by filing a certified copy of their priority document.

In view of the present amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 3-17 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of said claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested, and the allowance thereof is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner not deem the present amendment and remarks to place the instant claims in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment Under Rule 116 be entered for the purpose of placing the prosecution record in better condition for appeal.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

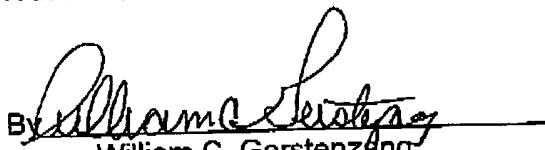
If any extension of time for this amendment is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fee or credit any excess to deposit Account No. 14-1263

Respectfully submitted

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile addressed to BOX AF, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 15, 2002



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**MARKED-UP COPIES OF AMENDED CLAIMS, SHOWING CHANGES RELATIVE
TO PREVIOUS VERSIONS**

Claim 13 (amended). [The adhesive tape of Claim 1, wherein said] An

adhesive tape with adhesive front side and nonadhesive rear side and two long edges for flying reel change, having

- a) a film backing (P1) having a front side and a rear side and which is coated on the front side with a self-adhesive composition (N1),
- b) part of the nonadhesive rear side of the film backing (P1) being equipped with a double-sided adhesive tape (DO) which is comprised of a cleavable system (P2) coated on both sides with self-adhesive composition (N2, N3), wherein
- c) the double-sided adhesive tape (DO) is arranged at a distance (V) [is] of 0.5-15[.] mm from one long edge (LK) of the adhesive tape .

Claim 3 (twice amended). The adhesive tape as claimed in claim [2] 13, wherein the distance (V) is 1.5 to 3.5 mm.

Claim 6 (amended). The adhesive tape as claimed in claim [1] 13 , wherein the self-adhesive composition (N1) is masked with a release material (L).

Claim 9 (twice amended). The adhesive tape as claimed in claim [1] 13 , wherein the double-sided adhesive tape (DO) is 3 to 35 mm [side] wide.

Claim 10 (twice-amended). The adhesive tape as claimed in claim [1] 13, wherein the cleavage strength of the cleavable system (P2) is 20 to 70 cN/cm.

Claim 11 (twice-amended). A splicing method, in which an adhesive tape as claimed in Claim [1] 13 is partly stuck behind the top paper or film web of a reel, while the double-sided adhesive tape on the rear side of the adhesive tape is stuck to the web beneath it and therefore secures the top web, firstly only part of the release material optionally located on the self-adhesive composition being pulled off, so that that part of the self-adhesive composition needed for the splicing method is still masked with release material and, in this state, the reel has no free adhesive area, after which, in order to prepare for the splicing method finally, any remaining release material still present is removed, whereupon the new reel equipped in this way is placed beside an old reel which has been almost completely unwound and is to be replaced, and is accelerated to the same rotary speed as said old reel and is then pressed against the old paper or film web, the exposed self-adhesive composition of the adhesive tape sticking to the old paper or film web at essentially equal speeds of the paper or film webs, while at the same time the cleavable system cleaves and, with its remains, nonadhesively masks both self-adhesive compositions which were coated on said system.

Claim 14 (amended). The adhesive tape of Claim [9] 13, wherein said double-sided adhesive tape is 6 to 12 mm wide.